

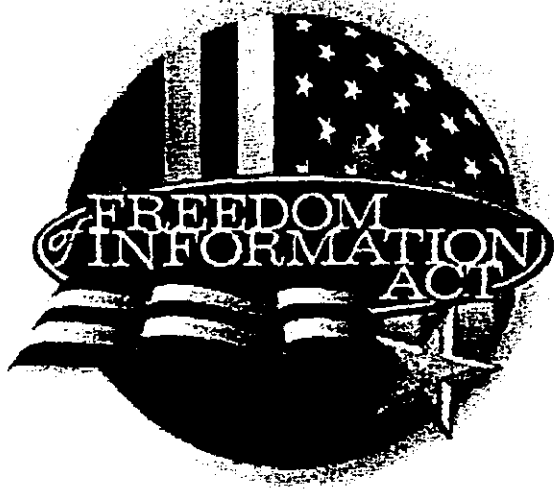


FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BLACK LEGION

PART # 2 of 3

PAGES AVAILABLE THIS PART 405



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILES CONTAINED IN THIS PART

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RECORDED

61-7398-10

August 12, 1936

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of August 7, 1936, transmitting copies of three statements taken from [redacted] under date of August 6, 1936 by Harry Colburn, investigator for County Prosecuting Attorney McCrea, pertaining to the alleged activities of the Black Legion, you are advised that copies of these statements have been forwarded to the Department with the request that I be advised what, if any, action is desired on the part of the Bureau.

In the absence of specific instructions, no investigation should be conducted by you in this matter.

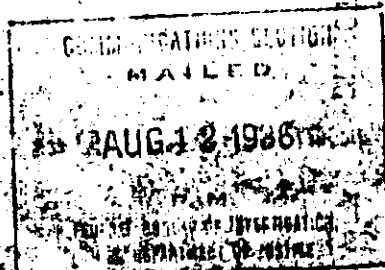
I am returning herewith the original statements furnished with your letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #831249

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schuler
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy



E. J. Connelley

Statement of, taken in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney
by Chief Investigator, Harry Colburn, August 6, 1936 at 10:45 a.
in the presence of Charley Sparb. Edna L. Barker, stenographer.

-0-

BY MR. COLBURN:

Q What is your address, Mr.

A Cincinnati, Ohio.

Q Mr. I am Harry Colburn, chief investigator for the
prosecuting attorney's office. This is Mr. Sparb, one of our
investigators and this is Miss Barker, a stenographer. I want
to ask you some questions relative to your offer of information
to this office in connection with the activities of the Black
Legion and one Virgil Effinger, its organizer at Lima, Ohio.
Would you care to tell me what you know about it and what
your experiences have been in this connection, starting from
the time you first met him, Mr. Effinger, just tell it in your
own way and in continuity, if you can?

A On July 6th of this year I wrote Virgil Effinger a letter
addressed to Lima, Ohio, asking among other things for information
relative to the organization known as the Black Legion
of which I understood at the time he was one of its heads and
in answer to that letter Mr. Effinger replied under date of July
to the effect that I should see him at his home, 1114 Harrison
Avenue, in Lima, relative to same. I didn't immediately
reply to the said letter and on July 16th I received a second
letter from the said Effinger again asking me to come to
Lima and have a personal interview with him in regard to the
Black Legion. On July 21st I went to Lima, Ohio on the Grey
Bus Lines under their ticket No. 93796 and arrived there at
12:30 the same afternoon. I immediately went to his home, Mr.
Effinger as above stated at 1114 Harrison Avenue and for the

first time made the personal acquaintance of the said Effinger. At this time I had a personal interview with him in regards to the Black Legion. Effinger informed me that before he could go into the affair in detail as I desired, that I would first have to become a member of the organization which I agreed to do and did so with him in his Ford V-8 to some miles past Elida, Ohio and was ushered into an old farm house at this place where they were holding some of their meetings, to join the organization and took the oath or obligation and was given a bullet, a symbol of membership in the While I was at this meeting place I asked if it was perfect safe, if there were any snoopers or spies that ever came on so at the solicitation of Effinger a fellow named Crawford whom I understand has a son-in-law on the Detroit Police Force brought forth a machine gun and told me that this was one of their main preventatives to keep snoopers and spies from approaching on their private property. After the obligation and on the way back to Lima a Chevrolet sedan bearing a Michigan license, it was a tan Chevrolet, passed and the car in which I was riding with Effinger, Effinger noticed the license right away, -I took the obligation about twelve o'clock, we stayed there until about one o'clock in the morning that would be the 22nd, - he said he was of the opinion that occupants of this car were there to kidnap him and take him back to Michigan authorities where the said authorities had passed a standard reward of a thousand dollars payable to anyone that would get him into the State of Michigan. He flashed his headlights on and off three times and the car in front under license No. EJ 119 Ohio and the car in the rear immediately stopped to see what he wanted. He acquainted the occupants of these two cars with his suspicions and they immediately set out to overtake this car from Michigan and

so a short ways down the road and at the point of drawn guns and the display of badges these Black Legionnaires entered its occupants they were officers of the law looking for bandits in Michigan and was headed that way and they proceeded to search their personal baggage, rifle their pockets, go through their personal papers and after satisfying themselves that they were not from the Michigan Law Authorities they permitted them to proceed on their way. Later at Effinger's in Lima on this same day the question came up about killing their own members and I asked him if it would not be better if there had to be anybody gotten if it wouldn't be better get the real enemies fighting in opposition to the Black Legion principles. He then told me that line of talk was up his alley and then he showed me a square mechanism with metal tube affair and that he claimed was invented by workers at the United States Government poisonous gas factory at Edgewood, Maryland. It had a time clock arrangement which explained could be set for certain time such as a Jewish National celebration - one thing was it would have to be in the winter time when the windows of these Jewish synagogues would be all closed so that the gas could not escape, and he you can readily see that we can pretty well exterminate the Jews at one click, it will only take a few hundred loyal men this cause and a few of these machines to do this. He also showed me a typewritten list of what he said was their Jewish Synagogue in the United States and their location and mentioned the fact that these machines would only have to be used in centers where the Jewish people were largely congregated in order to be effective.

Q While you were talking to Effinger you told me that the subject of the Detroit situation came up and that Effinger told you they were out to get McCrea and that they were having affid

drawn up by members in Detroit who saw, or were supposed to have seen Mr. McCrea take his obligation and that he also told you if it was the last thing he ever did he would not tell Blankety Blank so and so, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Now then you also said that he asked you to make out some of an affidavit, is that correct?

A That is correct.

Q Just what did he say to you in connection with the affidavit he wanted you to make out, did he say why it was so necessary?

A He said it was essential to produce in Court evidence to the effect that McCrea was a member of the Black Legion to dispute McCrea's statement that he was not a member and said that he needed some affidavits from men of my type that he considered have weight and bearing in the courts to verify McCrea's membership in said organization. I asked him if it would be a sworn statement or just a signed statement, he said it would need to be sworn. I told him that brought up the matter of perjury of which I had a little knowledge and at this time deferred the talking any further about this affidavit until our next closed meeting a week hence from this time.

A Mother, sisters, various nieces and nephews, my father is deceased.

Do you have any relatives in Los Angeles, California?

A No relatives in the state of California.

Q Was your purpose in communicating with Dr. Effinger on the Black Legion to again resume your organization activities if the Black Legion met with your approval?

A It was, that was my purpose in contacting them.

Q Because of being unemployed at the present time you felt that you might resume organization activities and thereby make a living?

A That is right, at the same time be using my experience to advantage.

Q and your only purpose in exposing what you know of Dr. Effinger and the Black Legion and its activities was because you feel that it is an organization that is dangerous and has no place in the scheme of things in this country and that you want to do your share in helping to eliminate this outfit?

A It is, that is my entire purpose. I would like to keep the record and file of the present members and those that might be members of the Black Legion in being led into what I believe serious personal trouble by being led by men like I am convinced this said Virgil Effinger is and while he will protect himself no doubt, he will cause other men that would be good citizens otherwise to get into serious personal trouble and if, by stay in this immediate territory I can further be of benefit to the proper expose of this organization, I will be glad to do so.

Q Do you have any fear of any uprisings on the part of any members?

A Not if I keep out of their back yards, away from where some radicals or irresponsible people might feel the desire of the leaders or expose their little un-American playhouse.

statement of, taken in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney of ...
on August 4th, 1936, at about 1:45 P. M., by ...
Investigator, in the presence of Investigator Charles ...
Stonography.

-000-

Q Now, ... you said that he, that ...
time-clock machine which was to be used for the expulsion of poison
was developed in the United States Government Factory at Edgewood,
A Edgewood, Maryland.

Q And that was developed by government employees?

A Yes.

Q Did he say whether or not those government employees who had developed
this apparatus were members of the Black Legion?

A No, he said that those inventors of this peculiar type of machine to
exterminate the Jews was developed by employees of the government at
Edgewood Poison gas factory by members of another organization who
some way co-related to the Black Legion, it was a superior organization
that the certain members of the Black Legion was picked after they
done certain deeds to prove themselves worthy and was transferred to
higher type organization, that's what he told me.

Q Did he mention the name of this other organization?

A No, I asked him for it, he said he would give me that at a later date.

Q Then he made you understand that even though they were members of a
different type, or higher type of organization, that that organization
was a ~~higher~~ part of subsidiary of the Black Legion?

A I took it that he meant that it was a more or less parent and superior
organization and that the Black Legion itself was a subsidiary of that
organization.

Q Did he profess to have control over those particular members in the
United States government factory?

A Through the executive offices in the other organization, I presume
Effinger himself, from what he told me, is a member of this superior
organization, radical organization.

Q Did he tell you anything about their going to influence the world whether they were in a position to produce an hour of it or to be there all over the country?

A Yes, he said that even today he predicted that they would control and should also control the Jewish race would be in the world. He had the compilation of the massacres and in the nations in which they largely go east and estimated just how many of them and how many take to enter into a large number of, as he called it, to get rid of about a million in one shot, a million Jews in one shot, these would be placed simultaneously in the different parts of the world.

Q Did he make any particular reference as to the influence of any Jew on the Government or on the people?

A Yes, he did, he said that they were the real serious danger, as far as in this country, that the present President and his administration being subverted by his Jewish advisors and several Jewish groups, like Morgenthau, and Sam Dickstein and Congressman of Ohio and so on, or Jew or something in this state.

Q This state?

A On Ohio maybe. Congressman Wolowsky, Samuel Dickstein, Congressman New York, Wolowsky as being one of these enemies and Jerry Brown and Frances Perkins was a Russian Jew, the Perkins was not her real name, she was working with Dickstein, that they considered that the Jewish element was a real serious element against the policy and ideals of what he termed real Americanism, when they got the Jews exterminated that would automatically lessen the power of the Negro that the Jews were trying to give the Negro equal social and normal equality, that we had women and men were freely associating in the New York nightclubs nightly, and he went on to say that the Jews in this country, that there was a certain number, let's see, about 8 million soldiers killed in the world war and he named out of that 8 million infinitesimal percentage that were Jews, that the Jews were profitable that out of the millionaires, made -- ~~the~~ millionaires were Jews, cause a war, the European world war, they had no nationality, they Americans, weren't Frenchmen, were internationally minded, had a

past to submit the gentiles through the international conference held in Disneyland, Mr. Dr. Lee and a number of other prominent men, who were over there, he showed me an oath purported to be taken by these Jewish leaders to eventually subvert the gentile identity and he had this Black swilling oath and he claimed the Jews in that organization took it, he also gave me a little booklet, a booklet of a purported oath that the Catholics, Knights of Columbus take to pre-

pare the American political arena -- situation.

Did he have any particular plan of action as against the Catholics or Negroes?

Yes, well, he didn't but a fellow riding in the V-8, Effinger's V-8, with myself and Effinger, who suggested that this winter when the officers at Detroit quieted down that it was his suggestion that each Black Legionnaire kill at least two Negroes in some month this winter. He did, he sat there and told me, he said, yes, that will be fine. I said I understood the population of the Negroes is ten per cent, Negro and I said will it be generally effective to do that and he said if each Legion man will do it you will find it will be a big thing, of course, he's a farmer, illiterate type, but it was my impression that Effinger's main fight right now, he expects to use the Black Legion fighting him is against the Jews, that they are really the root of a lot of our American evils.

What about the Catholic situation as far as he was concerned?

He mentioned the Catholics in regard to the political situation, being predominated within our present administration by Catholics, through Jim Farley and his cohorts of Catholics, said that they are officeholders Catholics, Negroes and Jews were greater under this present administration than they were under Hoover's administration and he called my attention to the fact that I was from the south and was, no doubt, a Democrat and the oath of obligation they ask you if you are willing to vote for a political party that they deem more in sympathy with Black Legion principles, that is in the one I took, they asked me if I was willing to take part in the lynching, I told them I might be in certain cases where it involved the virtue of a womanhood, or on very serious like charge

The fellow that gave me that part of the oath, he asked Effinger son about it, he said that's not definite enough, Effinger said, yes, it covers it, he answered it sufficiently if under certain circumstances will take part in the lynching. Went on to say that the conditions this country, in the United States, that they would eventually lead to similar conditions in other foreign countries, he named Egypt the ancient times there were 100% Caucasian -- white, until they got to importing the black slaves for the white people until they got to affiliating with them on sexual and social basis and brought about the present conditions of Egypt. This country is getting to be just as hospitals all over the country white women giving birth to mulattoes all over this country, that he had evidence to that effect.

Q Did he say anything to you about some trouble that they anticipated Cleveland, Ohio?

A He did.

Q Similar to that trouble which they were having in Detroit?

A He did.

Q What did he say about that?

A That started when I asked Effinger why the Legion members didn't burn or horsewhip the real -- what was considered the real enemies of the Legion instead of gentiles and his own members and he answered that of the hardheaded men in charge of local organization, such as Harvey Davis in Detroit, permitted those conditions and also he was depicting the same, he had a man in charge at Cleveland who had also permitted similar conditions as those in Detroit, was expecting sooner or later that to be uncovered and would prove very embarrassing to the Black Legion organization. I inferred from his statement in this regard that the Black Legion had murdered and horsewhipped some of its members and some citizens in and around Cleveland just as they were accused of doing in Detroit.

Q Did Mr. Effinger tell you about any other law enforcement officials in Detroit, or vicinity, that they intended to get even with in addition Mr. McCrea?

A No, he didn't say any other official, he mentioned the fact that Dayt

Dean was crazy, it would be proven so and would be sent to the asylum soon after being sent there that he would be murdered for his exposure of Black Legion activities in Detroit. I told Mr. Spive that a few days ago, I thought of it in the other room. Said Rayton Dean's life would be worth a Chinese penny, just as soon as this thing blew over, and was confined and convicted, that his life would be worth a Chinese penny, that they would certainly get him.

Q. What was the original purpose of ^{your} ~~his~~ communication with Mr. Liffinger regard to the Black Legion?

A. My sole and only purpose for communicating with Mr. Liffinger in regard to the Black Legion was to ascertain whether or not it was a really worthy American organization that would yield permanent good to America's institutions and traditions. I thought it possible that some individual Legion members had gotten out of hand and violated their obligation of membership and order and was acting contrary to its ideals and its officials' teaching and if such traditions and ideals of the had been thoroughly American, it was my desire to extend its activities anywhere that I might but after a thorough investigation and having initiated into its secrets and real intentions, the future motives, became ~~more~~ thoroughly convinced that I wanted to have nothing to do with it whatsoever.

Q. Did Mr. Liffinger explain to you the real purpose and the ultimate of this order called the Black Legion?

A. Yes, he said that it was the idea back of the Black Legion to re-assert real American traditions as intended by our founding forefathers which had been trampled upon by these various alleged enemies as heretofore mentioned.

Q. Did he discuss any plans with you whereby when their organization was in a proper manner that they planned eventually to take over the government?

A. He told me that it would be according to his idea, it would be an object matter to establish a Fascist or Nazist dictatorship, he mentioned the fact that Mussolini had only about one hundred thousand members who seized the government of Italy and that the present government of Italy

under Adolph Hitler was started with two men and that, by having more strategic situations in this country and by seizing strategic points he named to me, it would be a very easy matter to establish the said dictatorship and also inferred that he would be wearing the crown of dictatorship and his shoes when this did eventually take place. He inferred after he had seized the American government and become its dictator that he would have to have men under him capable of retaining this said title for him -- position, and that I would be well taken of in this and he said it was men just like you, Mr. that what it's all about and are not afraid to act when the time comes, that we need with us in this move:

Q Did he describe to you the manner in which they hoped to take over strategic points and control of the government when the right time

A Yes, it was his idea to have sufficient affiliations with various plants and the army and navy and such like necessary subsidiaries and strong-arm forces in order to do this.

Q Well, when he explained to you that the cause for the trouble in El and the possibility of trouble in Cleveland was the responsibility of the few men in the organization who were allowing things to get beyond their control and then in the next breath talked about these plans of killing people of various denominations and creeds, didn't it seem like blowing hot and cold on his part?

A It did, and I mentioned the fact to him and he explained it that the ~~movement~~ through and that this happening at Detroit would be proved to be a big boomerang for them and from that point on they were going to see that these things were not permitted to happen again, the rank and file were not going to be permitted to know the real motives and activities back of the Black Legion, that was going to be a good lesson to them. He found out you couldn't trust too many men with actual knowledge of what was taking place.

Q Well, now, you say that you took your oath on the date mentioned in statement in a little town not from from Lima?

A Out from Elida.

Q After returning from Elida and, by the way, that was the trip upon which your car was stopped, wasn't it? -0-

A Yes.

Q Where did you go from that place to Effinger's house?

~~not making any statement~~

A We went from there to a little restaurant on the square of Lima, on the "Spot" which proved to be in reality a Spot where many of the Black Legionnaires get together, we had sandwiches and soft drinks from there we went to 1114 Harrison Avenue, at Lima. Mr. -- the name Mr. Effinger, and upon our arrival there we went into the basement of the house where Effinger maintains his office, has his desk, he went to reading a, some sort, "I don't know what you call it, stationer" "God Give Us Men" thing he has framed there, also referred me to a picture on one side of his desk, showing Paul Revere alarming his country and fellows -- fellow Americans -- of the impending danger and said that there was an organization in this country called the Paul Revere, that I should get some information about, they had the real American principles, was sure I would believe in and want to know more about. It took from this statement that he was also affiliated with said organization as a member or otherwise.

Q Was there any discussion as to what your activities in the organization might be?

A Yes, it was plainly understood that I was to be in charge of a given territory, embracing the city of Cincinnati, Louisville, Kentucky, Indianapolis, Indiana and other cities and towns and that I would be organizer and control said territory with only himself to account. That he would see that I got every assistance and a sufficient monetary return to enable me to live on a nice plane, not have to worry about my finances.

Q Did he at any time disclose to you the territory in which the Black Legion was operating at the present time?

A Yes I asked him as to their numerical strength and he answered by saying it was in many states, in some states under names other than the Black Legion, but he did not definitely give me any numbers as to numbers or actual territory in which they operated but led me to believe that their concentration and affiliation was in the South and they went -- did

this time, or intended in the near future, to extend over not only entire territory of the United States but also have dealings with governments and organizations that were thoroughly friendly to the Black Legion and its kindred organizations.

Q What interest did he explain, would any foreign country have in the principles of the Black Legion, which apparently were concerned only with domestic affairs?

A Well, Hoffinger plainly told me that he admired Hitler and his German Nazi government, due to the fact that he had done a wonderful job curbing the activities of the Jews and also mentioned the fact that dictator Mussolini had won his high estimation by taking over Ethiopia, Abyssinia, and instituting Jim Crow laws, segregation laws, and laws favoring the white and colored races and the one thing which he did, he told me, Mussolini was establishing these Jim Crow laws.

Q Did he make mention any time of a man by the name of Dr. William Stephenson?

A I asked Mr. Hoffinger if Dr. Stephenson, as had been reported in the press the real leader of the organization and he answered by saying we are now talking with as much of the real leader of the Black Legion organization as it would be possible for you to talk to.

Q Did he say at any time that Dr. William Stephenson was connected with the Black Legion?

A He did not.

Q Nor did he affirm it?

A No.
A He did not.

Q Did he have any further conversation with you concerning Dr. Stephenson?

A He did not.

Q So that from what Hoffinger told you, you had every reason to believe that he was the absolute head of the order?

A I gained from Hoffinger's statement that he and other men in different localities were in complete charge of the Black Legion. I would say that I consider from his statement that it's composed and ruled more or less by what I would term a Board of Directors. Several men that get together and agree on policy, routine, and split the spoils and control its activities.

Q Did he -- strike that -- during his discussion with you, relating to Detroit situation, did he say anything about what their plans were, then to get Mr. McGowan to beat these charges that are being made against the local members?

A Well, I've got to understand that little better, is --

Q Did he disclose -- cross that out -- you say that Mr. Effinger told about his plans to get Mr. McGowan?

A Yes.

Q Now, did Mr. Effinger disclose to you any other plans they had in mind for the defense, or ultimate acquittal of the men now charged in the Legion activities in Detroit?

A Mr. Effinger told me it was his idea that Dayton Dean and Colonel H. Davis of the Black Legion, were expected to be convicted of the charges charged against them and he did not believe that any of the other officers accused would be convicted. Michigan -- it being a non-capital punishment, did not have a capital punishment law, and they they would, could not be hung or electrocuted and that when, that Dayton Dean it was his idea that Dayton Dean would be proved insane and would be committed to an insane asylum, after which that he would be killed. Loyal and devoted to the Black Legion for his exposing the conditions in Detroit in reference to this case.

Q Now, getting back to this timeclock mechanism, for the expulsion of gas, just where did you see that apparatus and, if possible, can you describe the mechanism and the approximate size of the device?

A I saw this device in Effinger's office, in the basement of his home, in the early morning hours, as previously mentioned, and would say from recalling faculties of my memory, that the said apparatus would be approximately about a foot and I would say it would be, let's see, it was a little taller than it was wide, not a great deal, it was approximately, I would say ten -- wait a minute, it will be more than that (indicating length of Stenographer's notepad) how much is that?

Q That's about nine inches.

A All right, I would say about eight inches wide and about ten inches height and was composed of an apparently regular clock-like apparatus.

that when, set at a certain hour and put into operation, would cause expulsion of the ingredients, which was to be held in a timing-clock arrangement adjoining the clock arrangement.

Q Was there an opening in this container?

A There was one metal arrangement that shaped up, it grew larger, it was larger at the top, it came up, let me get this thing here little bit better, it was a metal tube or a pipe that led into this gas chamber, the box that led into a funnel-shaped like arrangement at the top of the prosar, and he explained to me that the gas was to escape through the arrangement when set off by the timeclock arrangement.

Q Did he explain to you what type of gas would be used in this apparatus?

A He mentioned that a mustard gas composition had been perfected and so to be perfectly conversant on the matter of the latest wrinkles of poisonous gases.

Q What did he say the action of this gas would be if released from this mechanism in a closed room or building?

A He said it would spread over the closed area immediately and would exterminate anything, immediately exterminate anything within this enclosed area.

Q Did he say how long a period of time it would take for this extermination?

A Nothing other than it would be instantaneous -- immediate in its action.

Q Did he discuss ways and means of planting these mechanisms?

A Well, he mentioned that one man could deposit this mechanism under the seat or porch and make an exit before the timeclock arrangement would function and would be well out of the way of its poisonous effects himself. It would only take a very small space and could be carried into a place with very little or any notice.

Q Now, after you learned of Mr. Effinger's plans, and had taken your oath and saw some of the workings of the Black Legion, did you decide to conclude your arrangement with Mr. Effinger as to the taking over of the territory that he offered you?

A Did I decide to conclude the arrangement?

Q After that had started, did you decide to go through

A I decided to give no further contribution whatsoever to this or any other organization.

Q And for the purpose, may I ask?

A Because I've reflected it internally for some time, and I've decided at this point, to associate further with this. I have considered seriously a number of the principles of the organization, of their ideals and policies and while I'm not going to discuss them, I have given my eyes to the same and was very sincerely thankful that I wasn't going to be discriminated alive after having had previous similar experiences of those, that I consider responsible.

Q Now did you manage to communicate with that office, and you talked anyone in this office for the information which you were given?

A I was not, I took it upon my own initiative to want to participate with the proper legal authorities to make these criminal wrongs that have and ~~that~~ that are now and that will be in the future to doubtless if permitted to continue and grow. I, therefore, sent a telegram to Mr. Hanson G. Jackson, Major Deputy Prosecutor, to advise him that I had certain information, and I was through person affiliation with this organization and the other organization, and it was important for him to know.

Q As a result of your having sent this telegram, were you invited to go to this office, and make contact with the people there?

A Yes, I was.

Q Were any promises made to you, or any promises made to you for your information?

A None whatsoever, other than the return of my actual expenses incurred upon taking this said trip.

Q So that the information that you have given me, is based entirely on your part in a desire to assist the legal authorities in clearing up a situation which you consider dangerous?

A It has been thoroughly voluntary.

Q Is there anything further that you wish to add to this statement?

A Nothing, that I can think of this time, or in the future, other than to state that I am not going to be discriminated against.

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Kind Sir:

There were two of my good
friends murdered here last August.
On a Friday morning the discovery
was at 2.20. Three fires were at
two downstairs and one up. The
was punctured in the left temple
a bloody screw driver was found
on the lawn outside bedroom.
He was smothered in the kitchen
as there were no marks on him.

RECORDED
INDEXED
Am told by a party here that
could bring the gang back here that did it if he had
the authority. Two respectable
business men are members of
this gang that does its work
all over this coast.

61-7374-108
AUG 10 1936
LOCATION

W
X
H

-2-
It was a polite & intelligent
inquire of that and being as
how so many two and three
put together seems to make
sense and being as how the
Black Legion has a leader here
by the name of Linguist you
can see there is something very
interesting to follow up. I do
not wish anyone bad luck
but hoped you would protect
me in this secret that is now
a year old. It might be well
to keep my name in the back
ground but you can get all
you want to know believe
from Sheriff Morrow of Clark
County. Then if you wished
will give you the name of

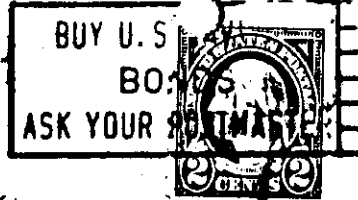
the man who knows about
the case and can get the gang
leader for you. You might
like to know that Mr. Anguish
office has a telephone that
has no charge of 10¢ for its use
from Vancouver to Portland.
I know the names of all the
Black Legion here in Clark Co.
Of course they are not for
publication unless you would
like to know. They are supposed
to meet in the Court house as
a Townsend Club and have
made themselves leaders in
it to the extent that freedom
is about gone. Thank you for
looking this up. Yours Most truly

Miss [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Vancouver, Wash.

723527 Triman } 72 ~~4~~ Artale
 7646 Fielding } 7436 O
 7355 Fielding } 19424
 7151 Sawyer } West Warren
 19613 Sawyer } its near West
 7229 Auburn } 8079 wood and the
 7221 Auburn } Plainview other house.
 7631 Evergreen } 8495 is next door.
 8210 Minock } 9040 Brail
 19527 Triman } 9048 Patton
 7636 Evergreen } 9031 Stout

23348 West Warren
 8234 Vaughn This are
 9848 Vaughn ^{the} addresses
 9898 Vaughn ^{of the pupils}
 8408 Evergreen ^{who belong}
 7735 7321 } 20048 to the Club
 477101 7618 } West Warren
 7651 Plainview } she has
 7781 Fielding } been in
 14721 Licence } the clubs
 7421 Buchanan } few yrs
 7250 Minock.



Bureau of Investigation
Dept. of Justice
Washington D. C.

W

To whom it may concern.
My Dear Gentleman

It is with great pain and
fear that I am writing you
that within Bucks County
Dublin Borough Pennsylv
vania there is a illegal
organization so called
"Black Legion" being organ-
ized and being investigated
by one particular party
named Lloyd Crouthamel
known also as "Butch".

X
ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

"He"
B.W

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

AUG 14 1936

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 61-7398-109 | |
| FEDERAL | INVESTIGATION |
| AUG 12 1936 - P. M. | |
| U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE | |
| FILE | |

P

W

I have been told from good source that they meet at his house or garage once and twice a week, and as a full blooded American citizen I being well aware of the fact that this menacing society also unconstitutional, appeal to you to investigate the matter before it is too late.

Citizen:

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

"He"
B.W

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

AUG 14 1936

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 61-7398-109 | |
| FEDERAL | INVESTIGATION |
| AUG 12 1936 P. M. | |
| U. S. DEPT. OF | JUSTICE |
| FILE | |

TWO



Department of
igation of illegal act-
ivities of the R.D. O
Washington D.C.

1130 Enquirer Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio

HDR:000

August 11, 1936

Post Office Inspector in Charge,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of carbon copy of your letter under date of August 8, 1936, to the Postmaster at Greenville, Kentucky, concerning a threatening letter addressed to Charles Edward Duncan, Greenville, Kentucky, and postmarked with a Railway Post Office stamp.

This letter reads as follows:

"You are on the spot.

"If you know whats best for you get out of Greenville.

"If your Dad Dies its ok to come back for short while. Don't forget don't let Sept. 15th find you in Greenville, Ky.

Black Legion

P.S.

The End is Death

Dont take this for womens writing."

An examination of the above letter indicates that it does not constitute a violation of the Extortion Statute coming within the jurisdiction of this Bureau, and it is therefore returned to you herewith.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

E. J. CONNELLEY,
Special Agent in Charge

cc Bureau

cc Special Agent in Charge
Louisville, Kentucky.

AUG 20 1936

61-7398-110

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 12 1936 P.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE

FILE

August 14, 1936

Time: 3:50 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Re: Black Legion.

Mr. McMahon telephoned and asked me whether Mr. McGrae had sent me the evidence we have received. I advised him that it came to us from the office to which it was turned over by the county attorney, and that as soon as we got it that we instructed our office not to do anything until they got orders from Washington. He stated that he had talked with the District Attorney out there and that he was sending an affidavit to him, and told him to look into it in a quiet way. Mr. McMahon asked me if I thought there was any necessity for notifying Mr. McGrae, because if we did he would be liable to give it to the newspapers. I informed him that I did not think it necessary to do this as there is no reason for notifying him of any action.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm | |
| Mr. Clegg | |
| Mr. Glavin | |
| Mr. Ladd | |
| Mr. Nichols | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Tracy | |
| Mr. Carson | |
| Mr. Coffey | |
| Mr. Hendon | |
| Mr. Jones | |
| Mr. Quinn | |
| Mr. Nease | |
| Miss Gandy | |

RECORDED

AUG 14 1936

67-7398-111

INDEXED

AUG 15 1936 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

pae

August 22, 1936

61-7395-122

RECORDED

FWMK

Mr. John Cooper,
897 Emerald Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your undated letter which was received at the Bureau on August 17, 1936, in which you request to be advised why the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not investigating the alleged activities of the Black Legion.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is restricted to the investigation of violations of certain specific Federal laws. Therefore, unless any individual or group of individuals violates one of the Federal statutes over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, the Bureau is without authority to conduct an investigation.

Trusting that this answers your inquiry, I remain

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC-Los Angeles

PW
R

RECEIVED
AUG 23 1936
FBI - LOS ANGELES
[Handwritten signature]

251 (Circular 21)
Los Angeles, Calif.

Department of Justice,
Washington D.C.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,

Dear Mr. Hoover,

As a citizen and taxpayer I would like to know why the Dept. of Justice does not go after the Black Legion. In all other cases of kidnapping the Department is only too active.

The Black Legion is the most infamous band of criminals on record. But why go on. You know the facts give us some action.

Sincerely,
John X. Cooper

ack 8/22/36 PW
cc Los Angeles

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

AUG 25 1936

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 67-7398-112 | |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | |
| AUG 17 1936 P. M. | |
| U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE | |
| FILE | PW |

JEH:JDD:AS

August 13, 1936

Time: 5:35 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Black Legion.

Mr. Suydam telephoned and asked me whether I had received any evidence on the Black Legion Case in Detroit from Mr. McGee. He advised me that McGee had made a statement in New York about the case and that the Attorney General had sent him a telegram on May 28, 1936 but that up until a few days ago he had not submitted anything. I advised Mr. Suydam that we had submitted the material we had received to the Department for what if any action we should take, but that we refuse to make any comment about it.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan | _____ |
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. Clegg | _____ |
| Mr. Glavin | _____ |
| Mr. Ladd | _____ |
| Mr. Nichols | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Tracy | _____ |
| Mr. Carson | _____ |
| Mr. Egan | _____ |
| Mr. Gurnea | _____ |
| Mr. Hendon | _____ |
| Mr. Jones | _____ |
| Mr. Quinn | _____ |
| Mr. Nease | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 14 1936
FBI

RECORDED
INDEXED
61-7396-113
AUG 15 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

EAT:TF

August 12, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am attaching hereto a photostatic copy of three statements in question and answer form purporting to have been made by [redacted] on August 6, 1936 to Harry Colburn, investigator for County Prosecuting Attorney McCrea of Detroit, Michigan. It will be observed from these statements that [redacted] alleges he entered the Black Legion and ascertained from one Virgil Effinger of Lima, Ohio that Effinger claims to have in his possession an infernal machine developed and perfected by employees of the United States Arsenal at Edgewood, Maryland. It will be further noted from [redacted] statements that Effinger claims the persons who perfected this instrument are members of some super-branch of the Black Legion evidently engaged in the Government's service.

The above statements were furnished to the Agent in Charge of the Bureau's Detroit Office by Harry Colburn, investigator for County Prosecuting Attorney McCrea of Detroit, Michigan, who requested that this Bureau initiate investigation in this matter because of the allegations that the gas bomb mentioned in the statements, was made by employees of the United States Arsenal at Edgewood, Maryland, and of the further mention of the plotted overthrow of the Federal Government by force and violence.

It is respectfully requested that you advise me what, if any, action you desire taken in this matter. I suggest that you may desire to refer copies of these statements to the War Department for appropriate attention and consideration by that agency.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #831248
AUG 12 1936

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dwyer
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schlichter
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

| |
|---------------------------------|
| 61-7298-114 |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| AUG 14 1936 A.M. |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE |
| FILE |

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

**610 Alonzo Ward Hotel Building
Aberdeen, South Dakota**

August 17, 1936

**Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.**

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith in cellophane an envelope addressed to Mr. M. Hardin, of the Malcolm News Agency, Aberdeen, S. Dak., which was mailed at Detroit, Mich., August 13, 1936; and the contents of said envelope, wrapped separately in cellophane, consisting of a picture of a hooded individual with a skull and crossbones headgear, black full robe, masked, carrying a revolver in one hand, and with a skull and crossbones imprinted over the heart on the robe; and with a large question mark over the figure.

Mr. Hardin is the son of Rabbi A. M. Hardin, is 17 years of age, and runs an agency for the redistribution of several newspapers and magazines in Aberdeen.

Mr. Hardin advises that both the envelope and the contents have been handled by various persons, and does not have the slightest idea of the purpose of his receiving this mail.

Same is furnished to the Bureau with the idea in mind that perhaps similar complaints have been received from other sources. Will you please advise whether that is the case, and what activity, if any, is being engaged in by the Bureau which may necessitate a lead for the Aberdeen Office in connection with the enclosed mail?

Very truly yours,

INDEXED

WERNER HANNI

Special Agent in Charge

WH:B
Encl.

SEP 24 1936

KRM:RP

COORDIN

61-7398-115

September 22, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

RE: SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 17, 1936, with which you enclosed an envelope addressed to Mr. M. Hardin, in which was contained the picture of a hooded individual.

This will advise you that information of a similar type has been received by the Bureau from various sources. The Bureau does not desire your office to undertake any investigation with reference to these matters in the absence of specific Bureau instructions. Any information of this nature, however, coming to your attention should be forwarded to the Bureau promptly.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

SEP 22 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ATP:MM

August 27, 1936

RECEIVED

61-7398-115

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 17, 1936 transmitting a picture of a hooded figure and accompanying envelope postmarked, "Detroit, Michigan, 2, August 13, 1936, 12 M." for latent fingerprint examination in connection with the receipt of these specimens by Mr. M. Hardin of the Malcolm News Agency, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Please be advised that the material submitted has been examined but no latent fingerprints of value could be developed.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

[Handwritten signature]

RECEIVED
AUG 29 1936

[Handwritten initials]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#

Single Fingerprint Report

Case: Receiving of anonymous picture of a
hooded figure by Mr. W. Hardin.

Number: 61-7308-115

Specimens:

One picture of a hooded figure with a skull and crossbones headgear,
black full robe, masked, carrying a revolver in one hand.

One envelope in which above picture was mailed to Mr. W. Hardin.

Examination requested by: Aberdeen

Date received: chp 8-22-36 12:00 Noon

Examination requested: Fingerprint - Chemical Development

Result of examination:

Examination by: Potter

*To McCarthy 8/24/36 - Follow up 8/25/36
Rec'd 8/29/36 - Geo. L. Latham*

*ans. 8-27-36
ATP*

*Dis. 8/24/36
8/24/36*



8/15/36

Department of Justice
Criminal Department
Hq. D.C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 61-1396-116 | |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | |
| AUG 20 1936 A. M. | |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | |
| TWO | FILE |

Memorandum: AUG 31 1936

of thought possibly some
information on the "Black Legion" of
Kentucky might be told to you - It
seems the membership consists mostly
of Negroes.


If consistent have one of
your men to question Eugene Brown
of Williamstown, Ky. - This Negro has
been in jail for the past three
months and it happens to hear him
talking with another man about the
Legion House for their section -

ack 8/28/36
cc Jax P.W.



In my opinion it might be
worth investigating. It seems
from what I hear of it they enjoy
to kill the ones they don't like -
It is true the State of Kentucky
likes law enforcement - Corbin and
Manchester are the worse I have
seen - I can't see why this goes on -
A visit to some of these towns are
not safe -

I am after some of the
"Black Legion" gang and if I can
get something done, I will write you -
but get this fellow Brown at
Williamstown, Ky. - He is real typical
of what they represent -

Yours very truly

L. Del. Thompson - Fla.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEE REQUIRED
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$4.00



Return to writer
Unclaimed. From
TAMPA, FLA.

DO NOT RE-MAIL IN THIS ENVELOPE OR WRAPPER

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

August 28, 1936

Mr. [REDACTED]
General Delivery,
Tampa, Florida.

File
PW

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 15, 1936, in which you advised of certain alleged activities of the "Black Legion". It is noted that you desire this Bureau to conduct an investigation relative to this matter.

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is restricted to the investigation of specific federal laws. The contents of your communication have been carefully noted, but since there is no existing legislation which gives this Bureau investigative jurisdiction over the matters to which you refer, I regret that the Bureau is unable to give assistance to you in this regard.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

61-7398-116

P. H. : R. P.

61-1398-117
Changed to 9-2242

August 20, 1936

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB; etc.
Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of August 17, 1936, bearing the above title, in which information was reported concerning the receipt of two letters by Albert Phillips, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, and Dr. E. T. Wirschafter, physician for this Brotherhood, you are advised that inasmuch as the communications received were signed "Black Legion", the facts were referred to the Department for a decision as to whether investigation was to be instituted. Upon receipt of advice from the Department, you will be promptly notified.

Very truly yours,

**John Edgar Hoover,
Director.**

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S) OF *decla*
DATE *10-4-77*

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Bingham
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dawsey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
1448 Standard Building
Cleveland, Ohio

August 17, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
Miscellaneous - ~~Confidential~~

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Schuler
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated May 29, 1936, which letter states it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau and that if information is furnished to this office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a federal statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereon by this office other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

On August 17th, 1936, Mr. H. C. Heiss, 906 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio, attorney for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, came to this office and exhibited two letters which were received through the regular mail on August 15th by Albert Phillips, General Secretary and Treasurer for said Brotherhood; and Dr. Z. T. Wirschafter, physician for this Brotherhood.

These letters, which are practically identical, are typewritten apparently by an amateur with no handwriting appearing thereon. They were both mailed at 5 p. m., August 14th at South Bend, Indiana, and directed to the above-mentioned persons at 418 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

The letter to Mr. Phillips reads as follows:

"Mr. Albert Phillips we demand that you arrange at once to have Alba E. Kelley T. B. allowance restored to him at once. And restore it from March 1936. If you dont we are going to take you for a ride, and you may never return."

"Signed Black Legion"

AUG 25 1936

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-1A

AUG 1936

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77

LED/bw

8-19-36
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

45

Attorney Heiss advises that Alba E. X. Kelley mentioned in the letters is a member of the Brotherhood and gives his address as Box 251, Monon, Indiana, which address is that of a funeral home, and that Kelley supposedly owns this house and reserves a room there for himself. Kelley is a former railroad worker and has at different periods received a sick benefit from the afore-mentioned Brotherhood at the rate of fifty dollars per month because of tubercular trouble, but this benefit was cut off by the Brotherhood as of March 1st, 1936.

In view of the fact that these two letters are signed Black Legion and because of the instructions received from the Bureau, as set forth in the first paragraph of this letter, it is respectfully requested that this office be advised by wire or teletype whether or not these apparent extortion cases should be investigated.

Very truly yours,

J. P. Mac Farland
J. P. MAC FARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

RTR:h

cc: Indianapolis

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

61-7398-119
Changed to 9-2242

Mr John Edgar Hoover.

Mr [redacted]
San Luis Obispo
Cal.

U.S. Department of Justice,

Dear Sir.

I wrote you on June 18th 1936.

Your answer I received on June 27, 1936.

Claiming these people are not breaking
Federal Laws.

RECORDED
&

INDEXED

| |
|-------------|
| 61-1398- |
| FEDERAL |
| AUG 28 1936 |

This band of Black Legion who used to
parade around my house at night in black
robes. Making the house of a Cayott. followed
me to my Sons place at Torrence Cal and
persecuted me there. Had a skull & Bones &
the radiator of their Car. about 5" size
and. Cooked like greasy rubber. They have
stolen my money. Conformed me in my
own home. And since I have not recd
assistance from my writing you, they have
increased their persecution. Continual
night and day. If this system of murder
by degrees is toleratable by Federal Law.
Then anything I do to retaliate, should
be justifiable. I have never hurt anyone &
my life, and do not wish to hurt anyone

Sheet 2*

San Luis Obispo, Cal

break any Law. I have prayed nightly years that this persecution might be stop. I have appealed to authority's. I have placed with members of the Black Legion. Knowing have helped in this dirty deal, they just let me. They have to have a subject, to work on. If they had no subject they would be motion to it. So no matter how much pleading, they would not try to help.

If I can get no help. I will destroy these persecutor machines. And I believe God will forgive me. When I asked at the Sheriff office for the address of the Crime institute. He laughed and said he did know of a Crime Institute. In the eyes of Creator I am no Criminal. And I know if these people know the truth, and for the feelings of my heart, they would stop this murderous work. They are paralyzing my hands. I can write no more.

Hoping in some way I can be assisted stopping this Crime. Yours. [Redacted]

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO



San Luis Obispo Cal.

*Mr John Edgar Hoover.
National Crime Inst.
Washington
D. C.*



Dear Sir: O
and

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Black Legion

I am sending a report
of places which I want you to investigate
the basements of these they cemented in
the wires into the wall but this can
be easily recognized. These lines
are all around the neighborhood, every
house. As the barber, he has everything
arranged, the roller curtain is pulled
down. This difference between this
and radio aerial can easily be seen.
Notice on the North and South.

Look through the
basement because

they got extra wires

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-121

First go to
ment and
all modern covered up.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 29 1936

This man rides ^{around}
(and ^{at} twelve o'clock
He is one of the
black Legioners. Watch
him closely. This
army is very fre-
quently given its
meetings. Will you
please investigate.

There is many people
who belong to this
Legion.

We would like you
to investigate. You will
find many unrecruited
there.

from Mr. Springer, in regard to my taking over the aforementioned term and becoming one of the Black Legion's organizers and if, and when, the communication is received, or this personal contact is made with FBI for the sake of decency and justice to all classes and crowds I expect forward, immediately forward same to the office of the authorities.

Q. Is this address which you gave in Cincinnati your permanent place of residence?

A. It is for the time being but in the true sense of the word, permanent as I understand it, it is not, my intention is to change this address in the immediate future.

Q. Do you know definitely now where you will be located?

A. It is my intention to return to California, Los Angeles California, away from Atlanta, Georgia, where I expect to visit with friends and relatives.

Q. So that you will ultimately take up your residence, after a temporary visit in Atlanta, in California?

A. That's right.

Q. Los Angeles?

A. Yes sir.

Mr. Colburn: That'll be all.

-000-

53

PW:CDW

RECORDED

61-7398-108

August 18, 1936.

Miss [REDACTED]

Yancouver, Washington.

Dear Madam:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 4, 1936 in which you advise of an alleged murder, and that you are in possession of information as to the identity of the perpetrators of this act.

For your information, the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is limited to the investigation of violations of specific Federal Statutes. In the absence of any indications that the matter about which you complain constitutes the violation of any such Federal Statute, I regret that there is no action this Bureau can take in the premises.

It is noted from your communication that you state you are in possession of information relative to the Black Legion organization in your community. Please be advised that this Bureau, in the absence of authority under the existing statutes, is conducting no inquiry into the activities of the Black Legion, and consequently, any information which you have relative to this organization should be furnished to the local authorities.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Portland

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

**Washington Field Office, Room 4244,
Washington, D. C.**

September 2, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT,
.45 calibre Colt automatic pistol,
Model 1911, #251440,
Theft of Government Property.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated August
27, 1936, Bureau file #61-7398.

Mr. E. L. Kahlert, Field Service, Ordnance Office,
War Department, has no record of the Government owner-
ship or loss of .45 calibre Colt automatic pistol,
model 1911, #251440.

Mr. Kahlert will immediately circularize the United
States Army Corps Areas and Arsenals and Depots for
possible information concerning the above described
material, and you will be promptly advised of the
result obtained. This circularization generally re-
quires approximately one month's time, and until final
word shall have been received from the War Department
this case will be held pending by the Washington Field
Office.

Very truly yours,

J. M. Keith

J. M. KEITH,
Special Agent in Charge.

RPB:EB
52-956

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

SEP 5 1936

61-7374-122

SEP 4 1936
ONE
STAT. SECT.
R8

61-7398-105

55

KRM:CF

41-7753-123

September 2, 1936

1194

Pennsylvania

Dear Madam:

Acknowledging receipt of your undated letter directed to this Bureau, I must advise you that none of the matters mentioned by you therein come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

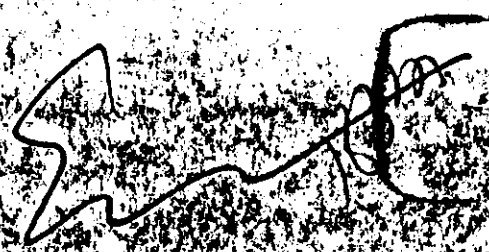
For this reason it will be impossible for me to authorize any affirmative action in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Pittsburgh

| |
|---------------------------------|
| COMMUNICATIONS SECTION |
| MAILED |
| SEP 24 1936 |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE |



Mr. Edgar Hoover

Washington, D. C.

RECORDED

61-7398-123

INDEXED

SEP 4 1936

SEP 25 1936

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

now hold it. explain
case to you. ONE XRM

When father died, he left
money for mother, brother Harry
who is delicate, and myself.
The rest of family had gotten
their shares. They was jealous.
"forged" mother name, robbed us
of everything, until we had to

ack. P.H.
9/24/36
KRM

62-C-3103

then tied in our Black Legion.
I was treated with unpeachable
cruelty, tied my hands, bits up in
the hat, sometimes burned my feet
with candle flames, destroyed our
mail, took our letters out of mail
box, hid in the attic and cellar
we tried to get help, but the Police
are shielding them, sometimes
they wear their robes, other times,
plain clothes.

Last Aug. a strange man
came to our house, said his name
was Shawby, said he was a
State Police, and that he was one
of the men who tied in our house.
he told me, the Chief of Police of Alton
sent him to tell me, if I told

what was going on. they wanted
to put my business out and bury
me in the woods. I told him I
would have him arrested for threats
he just laughed. he turned a
"Daisy" Barn with all the cows.
he laughed then he pulled American
most perfect kidnapping crime, and
got away with it.

This gang is the worst in N. America
and he is fearful and dispersed by
all gang land. he is called,

Double-Crosser Shawley. he said
he has murdered that many people
he couldn't count them. one of his
gang is called "Snake" Thomas.

One of the best mothers that
ever lived. she passed to her
Heavenly Home July 6.

My character can be
investigated.

If you wish to send anyone
here, please tell them to come in
the afternoons or evenings.

If this is not in your work
will you please give this letter
to the right person.

Recpt.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] Pa.



KRM:RP

61-7398-124

September 22, 1936

Mr. John L. Cooper,
257 Emerald Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

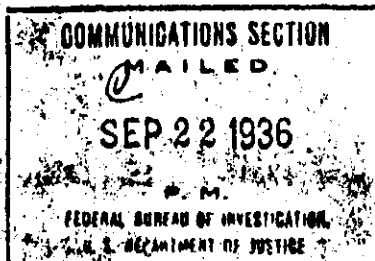
Acknowledging receipt of your letter dated August 29, 1936, I must advise you that there is no information contained therein indicating a violation over which this Bureau has jurisdiction.

In keeping with my letter directed to you under date of August 22, 1936, you are again informed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is undertaking no investigation of the Black Legion in view of the fact that the activities conducted by that organization are not of a type in which investigative jurisdiction is conferred by statute upon this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Los Angeles (with copies of incoming letter)



[Handwritten signature] *[Handwritten initials]*

Los Angeles, Calif.
Aug. 29, 1936

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U.S. Dept. of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

John Edgar Hoover, Director;

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of August 22nd. in which you explained that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice had no jurisdiction to investigate the Black Legion.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

SEP 23 1936

61-7318-124

SEP 5 1936

For your information, I would like to call to your attention at least six federal laws which make it mandatory upon the Department of Justice to go after the Black Legion. These laws prohibit (1) night riding; (2) kidnapping persons from one state to another; (3) threaten communication between states; (4) moving from one state to another to avoid prosecution for a felony or to avoid giving testimony; (5) interference with Federal Relief Administration (6) fraudulently obtaining federal aid given to rifle clubs.

I sincerely protest the evasion by the Department of Justice of its responsibility to investigate and prosecute the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,



Hon. Edgar Hoover, in Charge,
U. S. Dept. of Justice
Washington, D. C.

First National Bank Building
Omaha, Nebraska
September 1, 1936

Mr. J. C. Batte
Post Office Inspector
201 Post Office Building
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Batte:

We are in receipt of a letter dated September 1, 1936 from H. D. Hilbert, Assistant Secretary of the Quilts and Quilting Association, Grand Island, Nebraska which reads as follows:

"Some time ago I received a communication through the U. S. Mail, signed by the O. Black Legion threatening to come bodily to my door. I turned the letter over to the Postal Department, but they have declined to act thereon, claiming that the same does not come under their regulations, due to the note not extorting money."

It is very evident to me that there is in this local area aggregation styling themselves the O. Black Legion, evidently a deterioration from the O. K. K. K. and I am wondering if your department would care to investigate the situation.

An early reply will be appreciated.

Since Mr. Hilbert's complaint is not one within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, this information is being furnished you for such action as you desire to take in the premises.

Very truly yours,
RECORDED

INDEXED

R. A. ALT
Special Agent in Charge

61-7398-12

1/2/37
Bureau

SEP 11 1936

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
September 5
1936

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

John A. Moritz, Chief Investigator, Attorney General's Department, Lansing, Michigan, called at this office at which time the following interview was had with Special Agent James D. Cunningham.

Mr. Moritz stated that he had been at Lima, Ohio, attempting to remove Virgil Effinger, leader of the Black Legion, to Detroit, Michigan, for trial. Mr. Moritz advised that there are warrants in the State of Michigan for this man for carrying explosives and criminal syndicalism.

Continuing, Mr. Moritz stated that after much effort the extradition papers had been signed by the Governor of Ohio and warrants issued directing Effinger's removal to the State of Michigan. These warrants were turned over to Sheriff R. Marshall, Allen County, Lima Ohio, for service. Mr. Moritz further advised that the Sheriff's Office and Police Department at Lima, Ohio, had refused to cooperate in this regard and although Effinger is readily available at that point, they will not serve the warrant or cause his removal to the State of Michigan. Mr. Moritz stated further that he feels that if an attempt were made to remove Effinger it would result in bloodshed as Lima, Ohio, apparently is the center of the Black Legion activities and armed resistance would be given to any attempt to remove this man.

Mr. Moritz was interested in ascertaining whether there was any Federal Statute under which the Federal Bureau of Investigation could assist his office in removing Subject to the State of Michigan for trial. He stated that he heard of a recently enacted Statute that would probably cover this situation.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mr. Moritz was advised by Agent Cunningham that the Statute he had in mind in all probability was the Interstate Flight to Avoid Prosecution Statute and it was explained to him that this Statute

161-7398-126
FBI
ONE 9/2

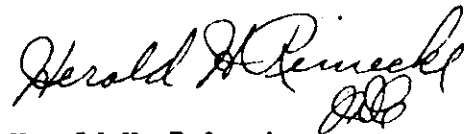
only covers subjects fleeing the state of prosecution to avoid prosecution for certain specified felonies which were enumerated to him. It was further pointed out to him that the charges now pending in Detroit do not come within the specified felonies and further that apparently Effinger had not fled from Michigan to avoid prosecution as he is a resident of Ohio.

Mr. Moritz appeared satisfied with this explanation and stated that if he secured any additional information that made it appear that a Federal Statute was violated, he would communicate with this office.

Speaking generally, Mr. Moritz stated that he had information that the Black Legion had contemplated an armed rebellion on September 16, 1936, and that it appeared to him that this alone would be sufficient for the Government to take action. He was advised that this matter had already been referred to the Attorney General of the United States by Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Wayne County, Michigan, and the Honorable Mr. Cummings had stated that, in his opinion, the facts disclosed at that time did not constitute a Federal violation.

As previously instructed by the Bureau, this office will not take any action in this regard without prior instructions from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,



Herold H. Reinecke
Special Agent in Charge

JDC:ERA
62-779

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

JWV:CJ
61-7398

September 9, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM.

Time -
10:10 A. M.

Upon the receipt of a copy of the teletype message from the St. Louis office to the Detroit office, dated September 1, 1936, with reference to a request made by a member of the Detroit Police Department for the cooperation of the St. Louis office in the removal of a member of the Black Legion from St. Louis to Detroit, I communicated with you by telephone.

In accordance with your instructions I communicated with Special Agent in Charge Newman at St. Louis on September 5, 1936 and made inquiry as to what his office was doing in this matter. Mr. Newman stated that he had not done anything other than that which is disclosed by his teletype above referred to, that is, he made inquiry of the Detroit office whether this matter was within the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

He stated that Sergeant Charles Meehan of the Detroit Police Department who had been in St. Louis and requested the cooperation of the Bureau in this matter had returned to Detroit, but that his partner was still in St. Louis. Mr. Newman was instructed not to conduct any investigation in this matter without specific Bureau authority.

Time -
10:45 A. M.

I communicated by telephone with Special Agent J. D. Cunningham of the Detroit office in the absence of Agent in Charge Reinecke and he advised that Mr. John A. Moritz, Chief Investigator of the Attorney General's Office for the State of Michigan, had requested the assistance of the Detroit office in the removal of the reported leader of the Black Legion named Liffenger from Lima, Ohio. Mr. Cunningham advised that he told Mr. Moritz the particular charge on which the Michigan authorities were seeking to extradite

RECORDED & INDEXED

SEP 11 1936

61-7398-127

SEP 11 1936

Memo for Mr. Tamm.

-2-

9/9/36.

Effenger was not within the unlawful flight statute and consequently no investigation could be conducted. He further stated that no investigation was being instituted with reference to the removal of the member of the Black Legion from St. Louis, Missouri, about whom the teletype message was sent. He was further instructed not to conduct any investigation in this matter without specific prior Bureau authority.

Respectfully,

J. W. Vincent
J. W. Vincent.

68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI DEPT OF JUSTICE ST LOUIS 0711

9-1-36

12-30 P.M.

VEF

SAC DETROIT

PHONE. SERGEANT CHARLES MEEHAN DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED COOPERATION THIS OFFICE IN SECURING REMOVAL TO DETROIT OF CLARENCE PRINCE AGE THIRTY FIVE ALLEGED MEMBER OF BLACK LEGION NOW HELD FOR DETROIT POLICE BY ST. LOUIS POLICE. MEEHAN HAS WARRANT ISSUED BY CIRCUIT COURT OF WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN AUGUST TWENTY FOUR NINETEEN THIRTY SIX CHARGING PRINCE AND OTHERS ASSAULTED ONE GEORGE WASHNER WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON AT HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN MAY FIFTEENTH NINETEEN THIRTY THREE. MEEHAN HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT DATE OF OFFENSE PRECLUDES ACTION UNDER UNLAWFUL FLIGHT STATUTE. PRINCE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY KNOWN FEDERAL VIOLATION THIS DISTRICT. ADVISE WHETHER ANY FEDERAL ACTION CAN BE UNDERTAKEN THERE WHICH WILL PERMIT HIS REMOVAL.

END

cc Bureau

RECORDED

INDEXED

NEWMAN

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 61-7398-127 | |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | |
| SEP 3 1936 P.M. | |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | |
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Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

61-7398-128 changed to
61-7560-2

Sent. R. 1936

Laramie, Wyo.

Federal Bureau of Investigations
Washington D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please note enclosed envelope and contents.

Not wishing to trouble you with unnecessary correspondence, I have delayed contacting you to see if anything would develop from above mentioned enclosure.

1. I do not believe the letter to be a "joke" from a friend, as I know no one in Detroit. And furthermore cannot think of any reason for anyone anywhere sending it.

2. The letter was addressed to a store where I formerly worked, and the Post Office employees knowing I had a box, placed the letter there, where I recieved it.

3. In my estimation, the organization in question is played up a little too strongly by the press; and although I must admit I'm a little worried, I'm not much afraid.

4. I'm 23 years of age, unmarried, and can take pretty good care of myself in case of any eventualities.

In sending this I hope it will be of some aid to you, and of no bother. I wish to offer my cooperation in the matter in any way you see fit. In the meantime I am standing by awaiting further developments, and advise from your office.

Sincerely,

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INDEXED

SEP 22 1936

61-7398-129

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| FILED | FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| SEP 24 1936 P.M. | |
| U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE | |

AXS

1/2nd of
12/13/36
all right

KRM:RP

61-7328 -129

September 19, 1936

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

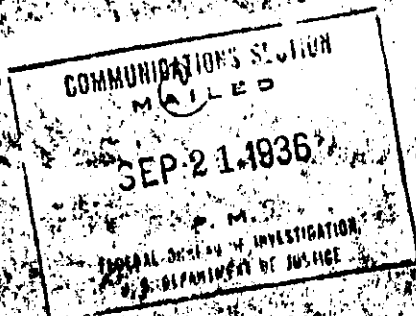
For your information only, there are attached hereto photographic copies of a letter from Mr. [REDACTED] Laramie, Wyoming, dated September 8, 1936, together with photographic copies of "Black Legion" data which were forwarded to Mr. [REDACTED] by some unknown person.

You are instructed that no investigation or inquiry should be undertaken by you under any circumstances in this matter in the absence of prior specific Bureau authorization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1047456



GJS:CJ

61-7398-129

September 19, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. [REDACTED]

Laramie, Wyoming.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 8, 1936 and the enclosures, pertaining to the Black Legion.

The information furnished in your letter does not indicate a violation of any law over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.



Sent. 8. 1936

Laramie, Wyo.

Federal Bureau of Investigations
Washington D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please note enclosed envelope and contents.

Not wishing to trouble you with unnecessary correspondence, I have delayed contacting you to see if anything would develop from above mentioned enclosure.

1. I do not believe the letter to be a "joke" from a friend, as I know no one in Detroit. And furthermore cannot think of any reason for anyone anywhere sending it.

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4. I'm 23 years of age, unmarried, and can take pretty good care of myself in case of any eventualities.

In sending this I hope it will be of some aid to you, and of no bother. I wish to offer my cooperation in the matter in any way you see fit. In the meantime I am standing by awaiting further developments, and advise from your office.

Sincerely,

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&
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SEP 22 1936

61-7398-129

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| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | |
| SEP 22 1936 P.M. | |
| U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE | RECEIVED |

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all 9/3/36
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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Laramie Wyo



Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
P. O. DRAWER "V",
Plaza Station,
St. Louis, Missouri.

September 9, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This will confirm the telephone conversation of September 5, 1936 between Mr. John Vincent of the Bureau and the writer concerning the request of the Detroit, Mich. Police Department for the assistance of this Bureau in securing the removal from St. Louis to Detroit of Clarence Prince, an alleged member of the Black Legion, for whom the Detroit Police hold a warrant charging assault with a dangerous weapon.

As Mr. Vincent was advised, this office has taken no action whatever in this matter and in conformity with the Bureau's instructions no future action will be taken.

For the information of the Bureau and the Detroit office, this is to advise that on September 1, 1936 Chief of Detectives John J. Carroll, St. Louis Police Dept., contacted this office advising that assistance was desired by officers of the Detroit Police Dept. in removing from St. Louis to Detroit Clarence Prince, who was wanted in Detroit for assault with a dangerous weapon.

At the St. Louis Police Dept., Special Agent H. G. Wiltse of this office was introduced to Detective Sergt. Charles Meehan of the Detroit Police Dept., who accompanied Mr. Wiltse to the St. Louis Bureau office and informed Mr. Wiltse and the writer that indictment No. 18594 was returned by the Circuit Court of Wayne County, Mich. on August 24, 1936 against Clarence Prince, Henry van Horn, Rudyard K. Wellman, Whitney Fleming and Roy Hepner, charging that these persons acting in concert on May 15, 1933 at Highland Park, Mich. assaulted George Washer with an iron bar, club, or other dangerous weapon, to-wit., a blackjack, with intent to inflict great bodily harm less than the crime of murder. Sergt. Meehan had in his possession a warrant for the arrest of Clarence Prince issued by the Circuit Court of Wayne County, Mich., on August 24, 1936, charging this offense.

INDEXED

Concerning the alleged activities of Prince and others, Sergt. Meehan advised that on or about June 1, 1936 Prince, along with a number of other persons, were arrested in Detroit for questioning in connection with the Poole murder which was allegedly committed by members of the Black Legion. At that time the police had no knowledge as to Prince, be-

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100

ing involved in the Black Legion crimes and at about 4:00 A. M. the day following his arrest he was allowed to go home, having first been instructed to return to the Police Department for questioning at 8:00 o'clock the same morning. Instead of returning Prince, upon going home, disposed of his furniture and other personal property and disappeared. Sergt. Meehan advised that after considerable investigation he had located Prince in St. Louis, Mo., through his brother who lives in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Sergt. Meehan advised that he is convinced that Prince is connected with several Black Legion murders and that he is guilty of the murder of James Delac in May, 1935 as the order to kill Belac must have been approved by Prince, who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Black Legion organization.

Sergt. Meehan stated that the offense alleged in the indictment mentioned above is not the warrant upon which Prince will possibly be prosecuted, but that the Detroit Police Dept. is desirous of having him return to Detroit as it is believed he will be in a position to furnish valuable information concerning other crimes allegedly committed by the Black Legion. It is also Sergt. Meehan's belief that Prince can be convicted of murder in Detroit.

Sergt. Meehan stated that he had conversed with Prince since his arrest in St. Louis on August 31, 1936, but that he will not waive extradition and is unwilling to furnish any information of value. Sergt. Meehan requested the assistance of this office in securing authorization of Federal prosecution of Prince under the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution statute in order that he might be returned to Detroit inasmuch as the trial of some of the Black Legion members is now under way there and that Prince might prove a valuable witness to the State at this time.

Sergt. Meehan was advised that inasmuch as the substance of the offense for which Prince was indicted occurred before the enactment of the statute forbidding Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution, Federal action in this regard could not be undertaken. Sergt. Meehan suggested that it might be possible for the U. S. Attorney at Detroit to institute some action against Prince which would permit his removal, and in view of this the teletype of September 1, 1936 was directed to the Detroit office. Immediately upon receipt of the Detroit telegram on September 1, 1936 Detective Lawrence Sheehy of the Detroit Police Department, who is working with Sergt. Meehan on this matter, was notified at the St. Louis Police Dept. that the U. S. Attorney at Detroit knew of no Federal law which would assist in the removal of Prince.

Following is the description of Prince, as shown by the records of the St. Louis Police Department:

3

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Name | CLARENCE LEE PRINCE |
| Age | 31 (Born 2-16-05 in Hickman County, Ky.) |
| Height | 6' 1" |
| Weight | 145 |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Eyes | Gray yellow |
| Hair | Very light chestnut |
| Teeth | Lower right out |
| Residence | 2328 Albion Place, St. Louis, Mo. |
| Police Number | St. Louis Police Dept. #42095. |
| Relatives | Father - Elbert Prince, Hickman, Ky. Mother - Kate Prince, same address. Wife - Lucille Prince, 2328 Albion Pl., St. Louis, Mo. Brother- Clyde Prince, 3140 Converse Ave., E. St. Louis, Ill. |

As previously stated, in view of the Bureau instructions,
no action whatever will be taken in this matter by this office.

Very truly yours,

Jay C. Newman
JAY C. NEWMAN,
Special Agent in Charge.

JCN:M
CC-Detroit
88-38-

Sept. 4, 1936

Mr. Edgar Hoover,
Director of the Division of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

52772

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing to urge that your department undertake a very thoroughgoing investigation of the American activities of the Black Legion, drawing from the newspapers, they constitute a lawless organization tending to force workingmen to lawless activity -- Klu Klux Klan sort of violence and murder.

Sincerely,

John Warner

*Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.*

